

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 13, 16, 23, and 26 as indicated and cancel claims 15, 17, 24, and 27.

1. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium comprising computer readable program code containing a programming interface for managing and conducting fast replication operations, the programming interface comprising:

an add to snapshot set function configured to add snapshot criteria to a snapshot set, the snapshot criteria comprising a source volume indicator data field, a target volume indicator data field, an auto-select target indicator data field, a partial volume indicator data field, and a source extents indicator data field; and

an execute snapshot set function configured to initiate a plurality of fast replications operations as specified by the snapshot set.

2. (Currently amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein the snapshot criteria further comprises ~~at least one data field selected from the group consisting of a source volume indicator, a target volume indicator, an auto-select target indicator, a partial volume indicator, a source extents indicator, a redundancy level indicator~~ data field, and background copy indicator data field.

3. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein the programming interface further comprises:

a create snapshot set function configured to create a snapshot set; and

a delete snapshot set function configured to delete a specified snapshot set.

4. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein the programming interface further comprises:
 - a remove from snapshot set function configured to delete specified snapshot criteria from the snapshot set; and
 - a terminate snapshot set function configured to terminate the plurality of fast replications operations specified by the snapshot set.
5. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein the programming interface further comprises a get snapshot set function configured to provide information regarding a specified snapshot set.
6. (Currently amended) An apparatus for managing and conducting fast replication operations, the apparatus comprising:
 - a snapshot management module configured to add snapshot criteria to a snapshot set, the snapshot criteria comprising a source volume indicator data field, a target volume indicator data field, an auto-select target indicator data field, a partial volume indicator data field, a source extents indicator data field, and a background copy indicator data field; and
 - a snapshot execution module configured to initiate a plurality of fast replications operations as specified by the snapshot set.
7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the ~~snapshot management module is further configured to manage~~ snapshot criteria further comprising ~~at least one data field selected from the group consisting of a source volume indicator, a target volume indicator, an auto-select target indicator, a partial volume indicator, a source extents indicator, a redundancy level indicator data field, and a background copy indicator.~~

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the snapshot execution module is further configured to terminate the plurality of fast replications operations specified by the snapshot set.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the snapshot management module is further configured to manage a list of controllers associated with the snapshot set.
10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the snapshot management module is further configured to create a snapshot set and delete a specified snapshot set.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the snapshot management module is further configured to delete specified snapshot criteria from the snapshot set and the snapshot execution module is further configured to terminate the plurality of fast replications operations specified by the snapshot set.
12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the snapshot management module is further configured to provide information regarding a specified snapshot set.

13. (Currently amended) An apparatus for managing and conducting fast replication operations, the apparatus comprising:

means for adding snapshot criteria to a snapshot set, the snapshot criteria comprising a source volume indicator data field, a target volume indicator data field, an auto-select target indicator data field, a partial volume indicator data field, a source extents indicator data field, a redundancy level indicator data field, and a background copy indicator data field; and

means for initiating a plurality of fast replications operations as specified by the snapshot set.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

means for managing a list of controllers associated with the snapshot set;

means for creating the snapshot set;

means for deleting a specified snapshot set;

means for removing specified snapshot criteria from the snapshot set;

means for terminating the plurality of fast replications operations specified by the snapshot set; and

means for providing information regarding a specified snapshot set.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A method for managing and conducting fast replication operations, the method comprising:

adding snapshot criteria to a snapshot set, the snapshot criteria comprising a source volume indicator data field, a target volume indicator data field, an auto-select target indicator data field, a partial volume indicator data field, a source extents indicator data field, a redundancy level indicator data field, and a background copy indicator data field; and

initiating a plurality of fast replication operations as specified by the snapshot set.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising conducting an operation selected from the group consisting of:

creating the snapshot set;

deleting a specified snapshot set;

providing information regarding a specified snapshot set;

deleting specified snapshot criteria from the snapshot set; and

terminating the plurality of fast replications operations specified by the snapshot set.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein adding snapshot criteria to a snapshot set is conducted using an API.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein adding snapshot criteria to a snapshot set and initiating a plurality of fast replication operations as specified by the snapshot set are conducted across multiple volumes and multiple controllers.

21. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein initiating a plurality of fast replication operations may be conducted by any one of a plurality of servers in a storage system.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising managing a list of controllers associated with the snapshot set.

23. (Currently amended) A system for managing and conducting fast replication operations, the system comprising:

a plurality of storage volumes configured to store data;

at least one storage controller configured to manage the storage volumes; and

the at least one storage controller further configured to add snapshot criteria to a snapshot set and initiate a plurality of fast replications operations as specified by the snapshot set, the snapshot criteria comprising a source volume indicator data field, a target volume indicator data field, an auto-select target indicator data field, a partial volume indicator data field, a source extents indicator data field, a redundancy level indicator data field, and a background copy indicator data field.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the at least one storage controller is further configured to:

manage a list of controllers associated with the snapshot set;
remove specified snapshot criteria from the snapshot set;
terminate the plurality of fast replications operations specified by the snapshot set; and
provide information regarding a specified snapshot set.

26. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium comprising computer readable program code for managing and conducting fast replication operations, the program code configured to:

add snapshot criteria to a snapshot set, the snapshot criteria comprising a source volume indicator data field, a target volume indicator data field, an auto-select target indicator data field, a partial volume indicator data field, a source extents indicator data field, a redundancy level indicator data field, and a background copy indicator data field; and

initiate a plurality of fast replications operations as specified by the snapshot set.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 26, further comprising computer readable program code configured to:

manage a list of controllers associated with the snapshot set;
remove specified snapshot criteria from the snapshot set;
terminate the plurality of fast replications operations specified by the snapshot set; and
provide information regarding a specified snapshot set.